

## MI Child Support Formula - Proposed Changes in Child Support Manual

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**Subject:** Proposed Changes in Child Support Manual

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These comments are addressed to the issue of the proposed changes in the Michigan Child Support Formula Manual to be considered by the Supreme Court. I am unsure of the specific portion of the changes to which these comments apply, other than the news reports of reduced support payments by a non-custodial parent if that parent has custody of a child for a certain number of days per year and the proposed reduction in that custody time.

The issue in our family case is that our single, unmarried daughter has custody of a child and the birth father has taken no interest in the child or its health and well-being for over two years until recently when the father has petitioned for monthly custody in an effort to reduce the amount of support owed (currently a balance of approximately \$11000). The father has only paid when forced: twice via withholding of income tax returns and once in the form of bail, paid to be released from jail after being arrested on a contempt bench warrant for non-payment of support.

The only threat to the father is the possibility of arrest for non-payment of support. The reduction in the number of days custody required to offset support payments will have no effect on non-custodial parents who pay nothing in contempt of court orders and only serve to make a difficult situation worse.

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